

"Dedicated to Public Service"

THE RADIATOR



W6RHC
IRLP #8170
Echolink #322788



<http://www.gearsw6rhc.org>

P.O.Box 508 Chico, CA 95927-0508

Founded: August 13 1939

March 2010

Coming Events

OARS GENERAL MEETING

Friday, March 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at St. Paul's Church Parrish Hall, 1430 Pine St., Oroville

GEARS GENERAL MEETING

Friday, March 19, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at Butte County Search & Rescue Building-2591 Morrow Lane, Chico

GARS (Glenn Amateur Radio Society) initial meeting: Wednesday March 17, Lutheran Church Hall, Artois

ARES MEET: Friday March 26 at 6:30 p.m. Butte County Search & Rescue Bldg.

FCC EXAMS - GEARS VEC

Sunday April 4, 2010

At the Butte County Search and Rescue Building. Written test at 2:00 p.m. For information or pre-registration call Gene WA6ZRT, (530) 345-3515.

Club Events:

News and items of interest
GEARS Calendar...all inside.

Remember to check out
Our excellent Website:



Picture courtesy EVARC

W6AKF-Steve McDermott - program presenter During February Meeting, his subject matter:

What is WAS?

The LDA and ARRL Friendship Award



Steve graciously provided a transcript of his subject matter, which is reproduced on pages 2 & 3 of this newsletter.

What is WAS? The LDA and ARRL Friendship Award

W6AKF—Steve McDermott

For all those that missed the February GEARS meeting you missed some wonderful food and my presentation on What Is WAS? The LDA and the ARRL Friendship Award.

I have been asked to do a short synopsis of the presentation.

What Is WAS?

An award sponsored by the ARRL available to all members who worked one amateur radio station in all 50 states. Two-way contact must be established on amateur bands with each state. There is no minimum signal report required. Any or all bands may be used for the basic WAS award.

Written confirmations must be submitted (no photocopies). Confirmations must show your call and indicate that two-way communication was established. Contacts made with Alaska must be dated January 3, 1959 or later and with Hawaii dated August 21, 1959, or after. Contacts made through “repeater” or any other power relay method cannot be used for WAS confirmation. All stations contacts must be “land stations”. Contact with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft in flight, cannot be counted.

Exception: Permanently docked exhibition ships, such as the Queen Mary and other historical ships will be considered land base. A US applicant must be an ARRL member to participate in the WAS program. DX stations are exempt from this requirement.

Single Band Award for 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40, 80 meters are available. Any contact made for your Basic WAS can be used for your single band award.

In order to receive your WAS you must submit an ARRL WAS Application Form and WAS Record Sheet.

These forms can be found on the GEARS webpage on the Links page.

The completed application, record sheet and cards sent to your local HF Awards Manager. You can also send them to the ARRL, this takes longer to process. The HF Awards Managers is the quickest way to do this. There are 20 HF AM's in California, one here in Chico.

I was appointed a HF Awards Manager by the ARRL for GEARS in 1994 and I'm responsible for validating WAS and 5-Band WAS.

I can usually check Basic, Single Band WAS in about an hour, 5-Band in about a day.

My phone number and email address is on the GEARS roster. My email address is also on the bottom left hand side of the GEARS homepage.

What The Heck Is an LDA?

The LDA stands for Look Down Antenna. The LDA is a dipole mounted no higher than you looking straight out at the horizon. This antenna is 5 feet 6 inches off the ground on my back fence.



I have contacted 25 states with this antenna.

ARRL Friendship Award

The purpose of this award is to encourage contact between new hams that have limited experience to discover new friends on amateur radio.

The Friendship Award is available to any ARRL member who submits log extracts that show two-way communication with 26 stations whose call signs **END** with each of the 26 letters of the alphabet.

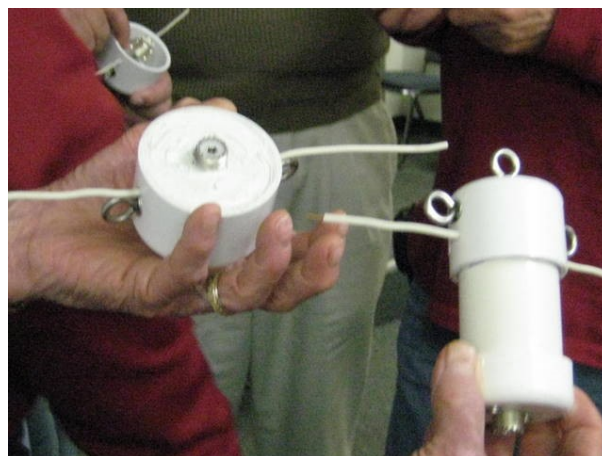
Contacts may be made on any authorized amateur-radio frequency and mode. Contact may be made from (or to) any location, or any number of locations.

Log extracts should indicate: the contact date, call sign, name, location and other facts. (Other facts may be what kind of rig, antenna, age, other interests, etc.)

ARRL Friendship Award forms can be found on the GEARs homepage using the ARRL page.

Contacts must be made after November 1st 1993. QSL cards are not required.

Stephen
W6AKF



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS LEADERSHIP

The third annual seminar for Emergency Communications Leadership in the Sacramento Valley Section will take place Saturday, April 24, 9 A.M. to 2P.M., at the U.C. Davis Sierra Foothills Research and Extension Center, 8279 Scott Forbes Rd., in Browns Valley.

The seminar is hosted once again by Art, K6ALC, Yuba and Sutter County Emergency Coordinator. The seminar is organized and presented by Larry, WD6FXR, Section Emergency Coordinator. All Section EMCOMM Leadership is invited as well as anyone who intends to step up to a leadership position.

All EMCOMM organizations, not just those whose title includes the ARES label, are urged to attend.

Attendees need to bring a bag lunch. There is no food service available in the area. Also bring your go kit if you want to share your ideas, and any items you would like to discuss. Coffee, tea, and bottled water will be provided.

Directions: take I-5 to Hwy. 99, then Hwy. 70 Marysville. Take Hwy. 20 east 14 miles to Peoria Road. Turn left, and follow signs 5.6 miles.

2010 ARRL FIELD DAY PACKETS NOW AVAILABLE

It is time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun.

Field Day packets are now available for download and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more. – ARRL Letter



VEC TESTING

**April 4th, 2010
AT BUTTE COUNTY
SEARCH & RESCUE
BUILDING**



**All Classes
Technician, General and
Extra.**

**Contact: WA6ZRT-
Gene Wright
530-345-3515**

Caps embroidered with your name and your call sign may be ordered by contacting WA6ZRT -Gene Telephone #530 -345-3515



Glenn Amateur Radio Society G.A.R.S. To Meet March 17

The meeting will be at the Lutheran Hall, 565 Main St. in Artois. The board will convene after this first general meeting to finalize issues of the date/time of future meetings and the submission of required paperwork to the FCC/ARRL.

Elections of officers will take place in about 6 months, when GARS has been certified as a legitimate amateur Radio Society. Albert Levya N6YCK has volunteered his repeater, the 147.105 as our primary repeater and GEARS has voted to allow use of their repeater as secondary resource.

All interested parties are invited to attend the meeting and to become members of GARS.

Interim officers are:

President: John Hursey N8GNV

Vice President: John Post AG7J

Secretary: Janey Keim N6NEB

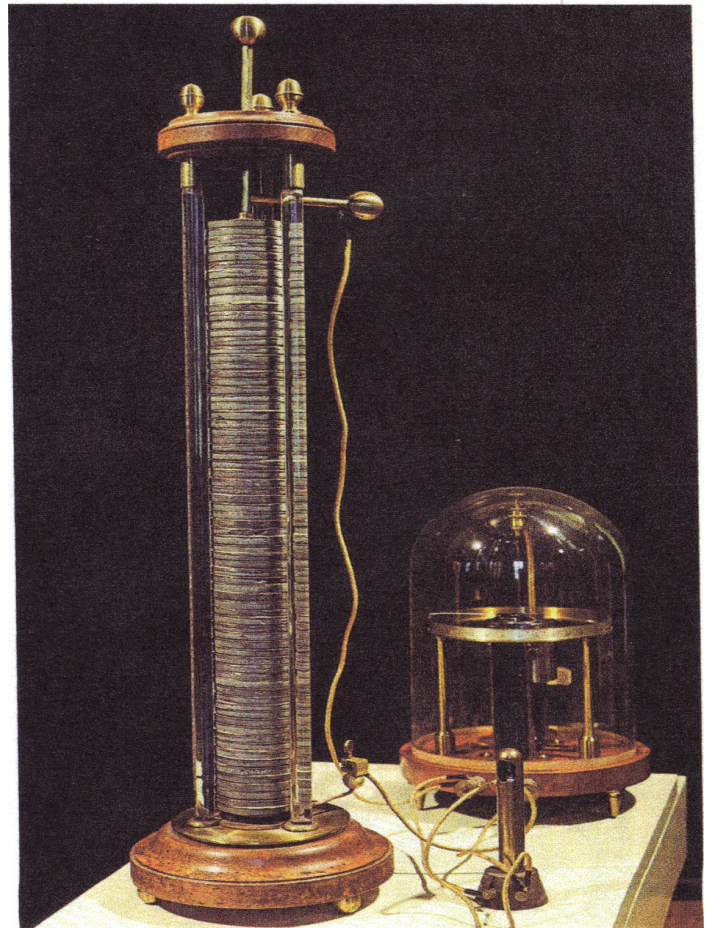
Treasurer: Phil Zabell KI6SMN

Board Members:

James Hilton KI6NKZ

Mike Ellithrop KI60BI

By: John Hursey, N8GNV



The First Electric Battery:

March 1800, Italian physicist Alessandro Volta described his voltaic pile, which he created by layering copper, zinc and wet cardboard in a closed circuit to produce current. His invention is now better known as the first electric battery.

The volt was named after him in 1881, an 80 plus year lapse before the scientific community gave Volta recognition of his electrifying achievement.

DISASTER PREPARATION TIPS

As we start a new decade, let's review some of the basics of Amateur Radio disaster preparedness. (The following are tips from John Covington, W4CC, of Dallas, North Carolina.)

You must make sure you're personally prepared for a disaster before you can even consider helping with Amateur Radio. If you are preoccupied with personal matters, you won't be able to help ARES®.

To be ready for disaster communications, do the following:

- Train regularly with your local ARES® group

Think about how you might best be able to help during a disaster. Some of us are good at installing antennas and equipment, others of us are better at operating on the air. Not everyone is suited to doing every job.

Sometimes just having helping hands, spare equipment or supplies can be helpful even if you cannot operate the radios yourself. Generators need fuel, operators need coffee, and stations need to be set up.

- Figure out where you best fit in.

-

Decide how you can help out if you stay home: Can you deploy at a shelter or EOC for a few hours? Operate from home? If you must evacuate, can you deploy from where you have evacuated to, such as a shelter?

- Have all resource materials you need in printed form.

Don't depend on computers, PDAs and so forth as they may not work in a disaster, require electricity and are relatively fragile.

If you use a computer regularly in your on-the-air operations, make sure you practice doing things such as calling nets and handling traffic the pencil-and-paper way once in a while. Remember, you may not be able to spare the amp-hours or the table space to run a computer.

Have an Amateur Radio ready-kit to supplement your personal ready kit.

Some items to include:

- * Portable radio, antenna and power supply or batteries (2 sets)
- * Headset or earphones (you may be operating in a noisy area)
- * Any cables you could possibly need
- * Pencils and Paper
- * Clipboard (firm writing surface, you may not have one otherwise)
- * Radiogram forms (helpful but not absolutely required)
- * Operating aids (pink card, Field Resources Manual, list of ARRL numbered radiograms, and anything appropriate for your local area)
- * Small tools (multi-tip screwdriver, multitools, etc.)
- * ARES® Identification Card, if appropriate
- * Important phone numbers and frequencies
- * Map of the area
- * Flashlight
- Poncho - very small to store, only around \$2 and Can be very useful when you least expect.

If carried in lieu of a personal ready kit, a few other items may be helpful:

- * For a short deployment, a bottle of water plus some crackers or something to eat requiring no preparation could make things much more bearable for you
- * Medicine
- * Toilet paper - small packets from MRE kits are very handy and don't take up much room
- * Moist towelettes
- * Know CPR.
- * Know the location of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and how to use it.
- * Know the signs/symptoms of a heart attack and stroke.

Also, be prepared physically, mentally and emotionally for the sometimes overwhelming demands of a disaster or emergency environment. Hope for the best, but expect the worst. You are at risk for witnessing horrific scenes. Protect your self and especially young hams; participate in psychological and grief counseling, if necessary. Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. – ARES E-LETTER

REQUEST FOR AMATEURS TO KEEP EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES CLEAR

Responding to the massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake which hit Chile at 0634 UTC on February 27, 2010, IARU Region 2 and the Red Chilena Nor Austral de Servicio (RECNA) have suggested Amateur Radio operators monitor the following emergency communications frequencies for traffic pertaining to the earthquake and tsunami: 3.738, 3.750, 7.050, 7.100, 14.200, 14.350, 21.200, 21.350, 28.300 and 28.500 MHz.

IARU Region 2 Area Emergency Coordinator Jorge Sierra, LU1AS, reports that there is now traffic at frequencies of 40 meters from people seeking information from people in Chile: "We would appreciate if amateurs would leave free the frequencies used by RECNA, as well as the usual IARU Region 2 frequencies on in 20, 40, and 80 meters."

In addition to the above frequencies, you may also want to listen to the worldwide emergency communication Center of Activity frequencies: 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz.

Other suggested monitoring frequencies are 3.720, 7.045 and 7.060 MHz. Hawaiian Amateur Radio operators on the lookout for a possible tsunami are monitoring 7.088 and

ARES SCHEDULES TRAINING PROGRAMS Amateur Radio Emergency Services

ARES meetings are the fourth Friday of each month. . Programs planned at present are:

- (1) Phonics (March meeting)
- (2) Seminar: PSK 31 on two meter/
FL Digi (April meeting)
- (3) Message handling (May)
- (4) Crossband repeating/portable repeaters
(June)

Please offer suggestions for future study programs during the Monday night net.

You do not have to be a member of GEARS to participate in ARES. All interested parties are encouraged to attend ARES meetings.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Friday March 12	7:00 p.m.	Oroville Amateur Radio Society General Meeting	St Paul's Church Parrish Hall 1430 Pine St., Oroville, CA	John Hunt K7XE@arrl.net 530- 589-4734
Wednesday March 17	7:00 p.m.	Glenn Amateur Radio Society (GARS)	Lutheran Church Hall Artois, CA	John Hursey N8GNV 530-329-6713 n8gnv@sbcglobal.net
Friday March 19	6:30 PM.	GEARS General Meeting	Butte Co. Search and Res- cue Bldg 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico	Randall Stone K6RCS 530-521-1318
Friday March 26	7:00 p.m	ARES	Butte Co. Search and Res- cue Bldg 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico	Steve Kaps N6NPN (530) 591-0450
April 4, 2010, Sunday	2:00 p.m.	VEC Test	Butte County Search and Rescue Building, 2591 Morrow Lane, Chico	Gene Wright WA6ZRT 530 345-3515

The GEARS Newsletter Staff:

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The Radiator is a monthly publication of the Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society (GEARS). It is the policy of the Editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio, of interest to GEARS members, and space is available. Please send all submissions to the Editor – Dorothy Post by the last day of the month through the following medium:

E-mail: dj@posthouse.us

Club Officers: (Board of Directors)

PresidentRandall Stone K6RCS
 Vice President.....James Hilton KI6NKZ
 SecretaryKrista Gallwitz K6KEG
 Treasurer.....Lester Mikeworth KG6KUO
 Past PresidentRay Watkins KO6TW
 Director.....Gene Wright WA6ZRT
 Director.....Stephen McDermott W6AKF
 Director.....Evelyn Weir K6QXC

Club Meetings

General Meeting Third Friday 6:30 PM
 Board Meeting Third Friday 9:00 PM

Club Net

Tuesdays 8:00 PM 146.850 MHz

Sacramento Valley Traffic Net

Nightly 9:00 PM 146.850 MHz

ARES Net

Butte Glenn Mondays 8:00 PM 146.850 MHz
 Yuba Sutter Thursdays 7:00 PM 146.085 MHz
 Meetings Fourth Friday 7:00 PM

Other Nets

Sac Valley
 Section Net
 7:00 PM 2nd Wed of
 the month
 146.085 MHz
 440 Wed. Night 8:00 PM Wednesday 440.650 MHz
 520 *Simplex* 8:00 PM Thursdays 146.520 MHz
 Golden Bear 7:00 PM Daily 3975 kHz
 Willie Net 8:00 PM Mondays 1930 kHz
Western Public Service System (WPSS)
 Winter
 Summer
 5:00 – 7:30 PM
 6:00 – 8:30 PM
 3952 kHz
 3952 kHz

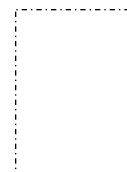
ARISS (International Space Station)

Uplink 144.490 MHz Downlink 145.800 MHz

Attention All Amateurs...

FCC Seeks Comments for Blanket Waiver to Allow Amateur Radio in Hospital Emergency Drills (Mar 4, 2010) -- In February 2010, the American Hospital Association (AHA) filed a request with the FCC for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules "to permit hospitals seeking accreditation to use Amateur Radio operators who are hospital employees to transmit communications on behalf of the hospital as part of emergency preparedness drills." On March 3, the FCC issued a Public Notice -- WP Docket 10-54 -- seeking comments if the Commission "should grant AHA's request for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) to permit amateur operators who are hospital employees to participate in emergency drills that are conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes and that are not government-sponsored." Section 97.113(a)(3) specifically prohibits amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer."

Full Story at www.arrrl.org



P.O. Box 508
Chico, CA 95927-0508

Change Service Requested